Advocacy For Elderly
Students Earn
National
Recognition

by Columbus Community Legal Serv-
ces staff

The work of three evening division stu-
dents of the Columbus School of Law in
restoring the civil rights of a 92-year-old
blind man has earned national recognition.

Lisa Scimeca, Peter Watkins and David
Gargano brought the case to a successful
conclusion in May, 1989, as part of their
work in the "Advocacy for the Elderly" legal clinic. An abstract of the case, Wil-
liams v. Forrest, has been published by the
National Clearinghouse For Legal Serv-
ices, Inc. and appears at 23 CLEARING-
HOUSE REVIEW 752.

The client had been taken from his home
by a misguided relative who forced him to
live in a third floor apartment. He was
denied visitors and telephone calls and was
unable to negotiate the stairs without
assistance. Mr. Watkins investigated the
matter and attempted to negotiate a solu-
tion. He and Mr. Gargano drafted a peti-
tion for writ of habeas corpus to free the
client. It was the first time the writ has
been used in the District of Columbia for
that purpose.

Ms. Scimeca successfully argued the
case before Judge Steffen W. Graae of the
District of Columbia Superior Court. Judge Graae ordered family members to
honor the client’s wishes. Today, he is
again living in his own home, with another
relative.

Ms. Scimeca graduated last Spring.
Watkins and Gargano are now in their
third year of studies.

Students interested in the "Advocacy
for the Elderly" clinical experience are
couraged to contact the Clinic at 526-
5200.